



June 20, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Here at the Oconee Alliance, our job is to come together to work with citizens to promote a better way of life in Oconee County, South Carolina. We are composed of business, political, and community leaders who come together to discuss and improve our area in whatever way we can. A frequent and important issue that has constantly arisen is the need for a stronger, more extensive wireless broadband network.

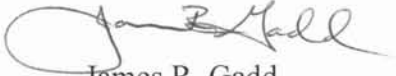
Located in the northwestern corner of the state, Oconee is located on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Historically, towns and counties located close to mountain ranges have trouble with wireless broadband availability. In today's world - dominated by social networking and the need for Internet access - small, rural counties are at an extreme disadvantage. This does not have to be the case anymore, however. If the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA were to pass, I believe there would be considerable positive changes to the wireless network we use today. My understanding is that, if allowed, this proposed merger would cover over 97% of the country's residents.

Expanded wireless coverage would revolutionize the way of life in Oconee County. Internet access allows farmers in rural counties such as ours to reduce their costs and increase their competitiveness. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rural communities with greater broadband Internet access experience greater economic growth. While Oconee doesn't want to lose the small-town charm and atmosphere that make it so special, it is still extremely important that the people of Oconee have an equal opportunity for economic growth. Wireless Internet provides the tools for such a growth.

Even when on vacation, people constantly check their smart phones and laptops to keep up to date with work, the news, or whatever else their busy lives entail. A popular tourist town, Oconee is a beautiful place that offers tranquility and a much needed breath of fresh air from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We do, however, know the importance of staying in touch. A stronger broadband network would allow for people to stay in touch, even when visiting Oconee and all the wonders it has to offer.

The AT&T-T-Mobile merger would bring about great changes for communities like ours. I encourage you to support this merger.

Thank you,



James R. Gadd

CC:

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell